

Application No. 10/761,379
Attorney Docket No.: 032181
Amendment Filed: August 29, 2007

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 2 will be pending in the present application. Claim 1 is herein canceled. Claim 2 is herein added. No new matter has been entered. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 12, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejects claim 1 because it “recites the limitation ‘the corresponding corner portions’ in line 8.” The Examiner remarks that there is insufficient antecedence for this limitation in the claim.

Applicants strongly disagree. In response to the previous Office Action, Applicants amended claim 1 to delete the term “the” from the phrase “the corresponding corner portions” in line 8. The text of the deleted matter was shown by placing double brackets before and after the deleted characters, which is proper practice for showing deleted matter that is five or fewer consecutive characters. *See* 37 CFR 1.121. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot because claim 1 has been canceled in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Anderson* (USPN 4,662,532).

Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot because claim 1 has been canceled in the present application. However, because many of the elements included in previously

Application No. 10/761,379
Attorney Docket No.: 032181
Amendment Filed: August 29, 2007

presented claim 1 are now included in new claim 2, Applicants will address the substance of the Examiner's rejection with respect to new claim 2.

Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. However, *Anderson* does NOT disclose a structure wherein *long-side bank portions of a bottom of a large folding container are configured to be higher than short-side bank portions of the bottom* and wherein *said long-side walls are configured to be longer than said short-side walls*. Instead, the *Anderson* reference is silent with regards to the configuration of the side-walls (and even appears to illustrate a structure having a long-side portion that is "shorter" than a short-side portion.) Accordingly, *Anderson* does not disclose every element of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, *Anderson* does NOT describe a combined module of a large folding container and a small folding container wherein each container comprises a bottom, long-side walls hinged to corresponding long-side bank portions of the bottom, and short-side walls hinged to corresponding short-side bank portions of the bottom.

In addition, *Anderson* does NOT disclose a structure wherein *protruding portions are formed in respective corner areas of the bottom fitting portion and extend toward corresponding corner portions of the bottom of the large folding container and said protruding portions are fitted into respective fitting concave portions formed in the respective folding containers below when the folding containers are assembled into a box shape and stacked on one another*. See claim 2. Instead, *Anderson* discloses: "The top of posts 69 and 71 have holes 70 and 70A. The plugs (46-69) on the bottom of similar size second container are adapted to fit into the holes in the top of posts 56, 57, 69 and 71 to facilitate the stacking of the second container on top of

Application No. 10/761,379
Attorney Docket No.: 032181
Amendment Filed: August 29, 2007

container 20.” *See* col. 3, lines 20-49, 45-49. Thus, *Anderson* discloses a different structure from the claimed invention, *e.g.*, no concave portion formed in the folding container below.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that *Anderson* fails to disclose every element of the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

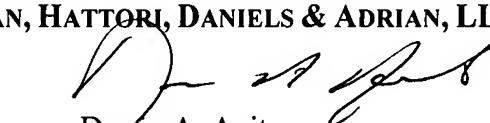
Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Darrin A. Auito

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 56,024

Telephone: (202) 822-1100

Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

DAA/rf